

Nalik language

The **Nalik language** is spoken by 5,000 or so people, based in 17 villages in Kavieng District, New Ireland, Papua New Guinea. It is an Austronesian language and member of the New Ireland group of languages with an SVO phrase structure. New Ireland languages are among the first Papua New Guinea languages recorded by Westerners.^[3]

Laxudumau, spoken in the village of Lakudumau, may be a transitional dialect to Kara or a separate language.

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Speakers

Speakers of Nalik reside in a series of villages in northern central New Ireland. The Nalik speaking region is an approximately thirty-kilometer-long band of the island that spans approximately ten kilometers wide and is flanked on its north by the Kara speaking region and to its south by speakers of Kuot, the only non-Austronesian language on New Ireland.^[3]

In the past, Lugagon, Fesoa, and Fessoa have been used to reference Nalik which are all names of villages in the region.^[4]

Phonology

Consonants

A Nalik Phonology analysis developed by Clive H. Beaumont^[5]

Nalik	
Region	New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea
Native speakers	(5,140 cited 1990 census) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none">Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oceanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Western<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meso-Melanesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">(New Ireland)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tungag–Nalik<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nalik
Dialects	Laxudumau?
Writing system	Latin script
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	nal
Glottolog	nali1244 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/nali1244) ^[2]

Consonant Phonemes

	Bilabial	Labial Dental	Alveolar	Velar
Stop	p b		-t d	k g
Sibilant Fricative			s z	
Non-Sibilant Fricative		f v		
Nasal	m		n	ŋ(ng)
Tap/Flap			r	
Lateral Approximant			l	
Semivowel	w			y

Vowels		
i		u
e		o
	a	
	ai oi au	

Grammar

Nalik consonant system

In West Coast and Southern East Coast dialects and when preceded by vowels, /p/ and /k/, two non-coronal voiceless stops are transformed into fricatives. Additionally, the voiceless fricatives become voiced.^[3]

When immediately preceded by a vowel the following consonants change their voicing:

/f/ and /p/ become [β] (written as v)

/s/ becomes [z]

/k/ becomes [ɣ] (written as x)

The following are examples of these characteristics:^[3]

Ga vaan-paan	
'I always go'	
a mun faal	a vaal
the houses	the house
a buk sina	a yai zina
his book	his tree
a mun kulau	a xulau
the youths	the youth(singular)
Ga rain	Ga rabung tain
I see	I saw

Nouns

Nouns in Nalik are categorized as being an uncountable noun, or a countable noun. Nouns can be part of a noun phrase or can be an independent subject referenced in a verbal complex. When used as subjects, some uncountable nouns are co-referential with plural subject markers however those are the exceptions and are usually marked with singular subject markers. With uncountable nouns, numerical markers cannot be used. Countable nouns, however, can be singular or plural and can be modified by numerical markers.

Personal pronouns

person	singular	non-singular
first	ni	di (inclusive) maam (exclusive)
second	nu	nim
third	naan	na(a)nde, na(a)ndi, na(a)nda

Variations in the third person non-singular pronouns are attributed to rapid speech and regional variants. In rapid speech *naande* often becomes *nande*. In the Northern Eastern Coast *naande* is the variant used. In the South East Coast *naandi* is the variant used. *Naanda* is used primarily by younger speakers from all areas.^[3]

Personal pronouns can notably be utilized in the same way as related nouns such as "a woman" (*a ravin*) being replaced with "she" (*naan*).

- *A raivin ka na wut.* (The woman will come.)
- *Naan ka na wut.* (She will come.)

Numbers

The Nalik counting system is reflective of using one's hand to count and indicative of the style in which they do so. They begin with an open palm and bring individual fingers down per digit counted and the action of doing so is shown in their counting system. As such the Nalik counting system contains elements of a base five counting system however when proceeding past ten, the counting system uses elements of base ten.^[3]

The word for the number five *kavitmit* can be analyzed as the phrase *ka vit mit*. *Ka* being a third person indicator, *vit* being a negation particle, and *mit* meaning hand. It can, therefore, be translated to *no hand* as all fingers have been lowered.

The numbers six through nine are also representative of this pattern. In these numbers, the phrase describes the act of lowering additional fingers.

Past ten, the counting system starts to use combinations of ten in multiples of a number one to nine. Higher numbers in the hundreds use "ten squared" as its base.

Nalik Number System

Number	Word		Number	Phrase	Meaning
1	<i>azaxei</i>		10	sanaflu	
2	<i>uru</i>		20	sanaflu vara uru(a)	10 x 2
3	<i>orol</i>		30	sanaflu vara orol	10 x 3
4	<i>orolavaat</i>		40	(ka-)sanaflu vara lavaat	10 x 4
5	<i>kavitmit</i>	Meaning	50	kazanaflu va vitmit	10 x 5
6	ka-vizik-saxei	it goes down-one	60	kazanaflu va viziksaxei	10 x (5+1)
7	ka-vizik-uru(a)	it goes down-two	70	kazanaflu va vizikuru	10 x (5+2)
8	ka-vizik-tal	it goes down-three	80	kazanaflu va viziktal	10 x (5+3)
9	ka-vizik-faat	it goes down-four	90	kazanaflu va vizik faat	10 x (5+4)
			100	kazanaflu vara zuai	10 x 10

Wh-questions

Interrogatives in Nalik occur in the same position as adverbs, prepositional phrases, and nouns, and bear the same grammatical relations. Several interrogatives are built off the base word *ze*, meaning 'what'.

Wh-question words

<i>a ze</i>	what
<i>a ze + modifying NP</i>	which
<i>a zaa xo + saait</i> 'also'	why (rhetorical)
<i>kun a ze</i>	why
<i>pan a ze</i>	with what, how, why
<i>pan ko ze</i>	why
<i>faa</i>	where
<i>ang faa</i>	which
<i>lasang</i>	when
<i>nis</i>	who
<i>zis</i>	whose
<i>sa(a)</i>	how
<i>usfa</i>	how many, how much

Word order

The Nalik language features an SVO sentence structure that is common to the languages of the New Ireland-Tolai languages.^[3]

	Translation
<i>A nalik ka lis a baxot sin a das-na</i>	The boy is giving/sending the money to his brother
<i>Ka lis sin a das-na.</i>	He's giving/sending (it) to his brother.
<i>A nalik ka na lis a baxot sin a das-na l-a fotnait l-a xor.</i>	The boy will give some money to his brother next payday.

Notes

1. Nalik (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/nal/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nalik" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nali1244>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
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4. "Nalik" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/nal/>). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2020-01-18.
5. Beaumont, C. (1972). *Papers in linguistics of Melanesia / No. 3*. Tryon, Darrell Trevor,, Wurm, S. A. (Stephen Adolphe), 1922-2001. Canberra: Linguistic Circle of Canberra. ISBN 0858830833. OCLC 28991748 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/28991748>).

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